

APPENDIX 1 - ASSESSMENT OF CERAMICS

1.1 Prehistoric pottery and fired clay objects

By Alistair Barclay

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A total of 684 sherds (5354 g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the excavation at Eyhorne Street. This includes hand retrieved as well as sherds recovered during sieving of environmental samples. The pottery has a wide date range that includes Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age material. The earliest material is of early or middle Neolithic date and consists of a small number of flint-tempered body sherds (23 sherds) some of which is residual material. There are isolated pit groups with late Neolithic Grooved Ware (33 sherds) and late Neolithic/early Bronze Age Beaker (30 sherds). However, the majority of the pottery is of Iron Age date (mostly early) and comes from pits and more rarely ditches. Some of this material occurs in features with diagnostic late Iron Age vessels and is considered to be redeposited (for the late Iron Age see M Lyne below). This material came from settlement features, mostly pits but also from ditches.
- 1.1.2 The recovery and study of the pottery was undertaken in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims (see Section 2.2), in particular Aim 1.
- 1.1.3 The relatively small groups of pottery cover a wide date range and will contribute to the dating of the site and to the understanding of the local and in some cases the regional ceramic sequence. Some of the decorated Grooved Ware might be of more than regional importance. This includes a sherd with a possible 'Greek Key' geometric design and a fragment from a possible spindlewhorl or spherical object. If the interpretation as a spindlewhorl is correct then it presents rare evidence for textile production during the late Neolithic. The small group of Beaker pottery from a pit deposit provides evidence for domestic activity that is generally under-represented in this region. The early Iron Age pottery provides further evidence for domestic settlement.

Methodology

- 1.1.4 All of the material was examined. The assemblage was quantified by count and weight and a note was made of principal fabrics, forms and decoration. Spot dates were based on the presence of diagnostic forms and particular fabrics. Early/middle Neolithic fabrics are tempered with angular ill-sorted flint, which is a common additive to both early Neolithic Bowl and also to middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet Ware. Grooved Ware tends to be tempered with either shell or grog partly depending on sub-style. Beaker pottery is generally tempered with grog sometimes in combination with sand and flint. Early Iron Age pottery often contains either flint, flint with sand or just sand. Glauconitic (black sand) fabrics are typical of the late Iron Age but also appear to have been used in the early Iron Age.

Quantification

1.1.5 A breakdown of the assemblage by context is given in Table 1.1.1.

Table 1.1.1: Quantification and breakdown of the assemblage by context

Chainage	Special number	Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comment
ARC 420 68+100	SS1	24	3	4	E-MNE	F. Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100	SS9	99	1	2	EIA?	F. Decorated fineware sherd
ARC 420 68+100	SS27	164	1	1	EIA	F. Fineware burnished neck sherd.
ARC 420 68+100	SS28	165	14	52	EIA	AF,F.Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100	SS89	167	2	15	E-MIA?	ABF.Rim from ovoid jar. Mostly body sherds.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		1	4	7	EIA	FA. Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99	SS23	11	51	205	EIA	AB. Mostly body sherds. One expanded rim.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		15	15	532	EIA	FA. Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		18	27	171	LNE	GA. Grooved Ware also contains possible spindlewhorl fragment
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		20	6	50	LNE	GA. Grooved Ware
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99	SS1	22	28	228	LNEBA	G. Beaker -comb decorated sherds
ARC 420 68 +99 200		34	34	11	E-MIA?	ABF, F. Simple incurving rim. Two sherds of residual earlier prehistoric
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		61	1	54	EBA	G. Base from urn or possible Beaker
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		75	20	27	IA	ABF. Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99	SS11	76	20	50	IA	ABF,AF.Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		78	16	35	IA	ABF,GF. Residual EBA sherd
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		88	1	3	LNEBA	FG. Beaker comb decorated sherd
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		104	20	70	E-MNE	F,FA.Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		117	58	145	IA	ABF. Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		125	9	38	IA	Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		158	22	84	EIA?	ABF,F. Red finish on shoulder from fineware bowl. Rest body sherds.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		172	16	139	EIA	ABF,F. Shoulder with burnish from fineware bowl, rim from coarseware shouldered jar, rim from?straight sided jar.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99	SS25	173	24	184	EIA	ABF,F. Expanded rim, rim from shouldered jar, shoulder from fineware vessel.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		176	9	146	EIA	ABF. Thickened rim from ovoid jar
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		177	27	258	E-MIA	ABF. Sherds from an ovoid jar with cordoned rim
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99	SS30	178	54	714	IA	ABF. Mostly body sherds from coarseware vessels some with wiped and rusticated surfaces. One grogged sherd could be LIAER and intrusive.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		218	1	24	IA	ABF. Body sherd.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		220	74	956	E-MIA	ABF. Sherds from fineware bowls either rounded or angular bipartite and coarseware bowls of ovoid shape with rusticated surfaces. There is also the rim from a burnished globular bowl.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		221	4	32	EIA	ABF. Body sherds
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99	SS31	222	27	168	EIA	ABF. Squared rim, body sherd with surface rustication.
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		223	16	124	E-MIA	ABF. Slight shoulder with finger-tip impression
ARC 420 68+100-68+500 99		224	74	759	EIA	ABF. Rim from ovoid vessel with rusticated surface. Other rusticated sherds match those from 220.
ARC 420 68+200 99	+ SS36	225	3	60	EIA-LIA	ABF. Residual EIA. LIA forms (jar, lid) in non ABF fabrics
ARC 420 68+300 99		227	2	6	IA	AB. IA body sherd. Residual grog-tempered ?Beaker sherd
			684	5354		

Fabric codes: A= sand, AB=glauconitic sand, F=flint, G=grog

1.1.6 Early/middle Neolithic: Plain body sherds in fabrics tempered with sparse ill-sorted angular flint represent probable early or middle Neolithic pottery. In the absence of diagnostic sherds, these could either be from vessels belonging to the Plain Bowl or 'early' Ebbsfleet Ware ceramic traditions.

1.1.7 Late Neolithic - Grooved Ware: Grooved Ware is represented by material which is manufactured from grog and sand tempered fabrics. Diagnostic sherds have grooved and impressed decoration forming a variety of motifs. One sherd has an applied vertical cordon. Rims are incurving, pointed and bevelled. Forms are

mostly jars. The fabric, decoration and forms indicate affinities with the Durrington Walls substyle as defined by Wainwright and Longworth (1971).

- 1.1.8 Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age - Beaker: Beaker pottery includes fine as well as coarser vessels in principally grog-tempered fabrics. The fineware is comb impressed with geometric motifs, while the coarseware has ridge mouldings and finger-tip impressed plastic decoration. The small number of forms approximate to Clarke's Southern and FP groups (1970). This type of pottery is commonly found together in so-called 'domestic' contexts (see Gibson 1982).
- 1.1.9 Iron Age: Iron Age pottery from the site is mostly manufactured from glauconitic clays with flint temper. Vessel forms are ovoid and more rarely shouldered. Rims are mostly flattened, squared or more rarely pointed and everted. Most of the pottery is plain, although many of the coarser vessels have a rusticated slip and some of the finer vessels have been burnished. There is a single example of a fineware sherd with burnished surfaces and red finish. On the whole the pottery would appear to fall within Macpherson-Grant's transitional early-middle Iron Age group (1991, 42).

Provenance

- 1.1.10 Early to middle Neolithic: Three contexts produced material of this date. Five body sherds were recovered from fills 22 and 24 of Beaker pit 23 and a further 20 sherds were recovered from fill 104 of pit 100.
- 1.1.11 Late Neolithic: Late Neolithic Grooved Ware was recovered from pits 19 and 21. Pit 19, fill 18 contained 27 sherds from at least four vessels that can be classified as belonging to the Durrington Walls substyle. Part of an object with lozenge decoration also came from context 18. This object is like a fragment from a clay ball, bead/toggle or weight and is similar in size and shape to some spindlewhorls of later prehistoric date. An alternative explanation that it is a boss or lug seems less likely because of the overall roundness of the fragment. Part of what appears to be a central perforation survives but has rough edges. Pit 21, fill 20, contained six body sherds, including three decorated, of Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware.
- 1.1.12 Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age - Beaker: Pit 23, fill 22, contained part of a fine Beaker with impressed comb decoration and a coarser vessel with plastic mouldings and impressed decoration. There are also two residual flint-tempered sherds of early/middle Neolithic date. Tree throw hole 89, fill 88, contained a single comb decorated sherd. Pit 60, fill 61, contained a grog-tempered base sherd that could belong to a Beaker or to an Early Bronze Age urn.
- 1.1.13 Iron Age: Early and middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from pit contexts 161 (fills 164-5, 167), 14 (fill 15), 33 (fill 34), 153 (fill 158), 170 (fills 172-3), 175 (176-8), 217 (fills 218, 220-2) and pit 226 (223-5).
- 1.1.14 Pit 153 (fill 158) contained only body sherds, although one with red finish is likely to come from an Early Iron Age bowl. Pit 217 (fills 218, 220-5, 227) contained a number of sherds that could be placed towards the end of the Early Iron Age as well as at least one middle Iron Age rim. Although much of this material can be placed within the transitional early/ middle Iron Age (Macpherson-Grant 1991), the most complete vessels were two that are clearly late Iron Age (see report by M Lyne below).
- 1.1.15 Indeterminate Iron Age pottery was recovered from a hollow (76), pits 74 and 118 (fills 75, 117 respectively), ditch 77 (fill 78), from topsoil context 1, buried soil 11, deposit 125 and ditch fill 227.

- 1.1.16 A small decorated sherd (oblique stab) from a fineware vessel came from ditch fill 99. The thinness of the wall and the flint-tempering are more indicative of an early Iron Age date.

Conservation

- 1.1.17 The pottery is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation. All the material should be retained until analysis is complete and decisions on final deposition have been made. It is recommended that all of the prehistoric material be retained for long-term storage.

Comparative material

- 1.1.18 There is relatively little published material from this area of Kent. There are no large published assemblages of earlier prehistoric pottery and on the whole finds of Grooved Ware and Beaker are poor in comparison to other regions of southern England (cf. Cleal & MacSween 1999; Clarke 1970; Gibson 1982). Many of the Grooved Ware finds are from the coastal area of east Kent (Longworth & Cleal 1999), however, there is also a single pit deposit from East Malling, Snodland (Wainwright & Longworth 1971, 278-9). Other comparative material is likely to come from north of the Thames Estuary.

- 1.1.19 With reference to the Iron Age material similar forms and fabrics occur at the excavated settlement site at White Horse Stone and reference should be made to this assemblage. Other published assemblages with comparable material are known from east Kent (Cunliffe 1974; Macpherson-Grant 1994).

Potential for further work

- 1.1.20 The pottery has already provided dating evidence for the site and has contributed towards the phasing. There is therefore little potential for further analysis in this respect. However, the prehistoric assemblage is very long-lived and has considerable potential for establishing a regional ceramic sequence, particularly by providing comparative material for larger assemblages such as White Horse Stone.
- 1.1.21 The Neolithic pits contain important groups of material for understanding the regional ceramic sequence and it is recommended that these are published in full. Some of the decorated vessel fragments have unusual motifs that may not have local parallels. The decorated 'spindlewhorl' is possibly a unique find, although part of a plain spindlewhorl is recorded as coming from the site of Durrington Walls, Wilts (Wainwright with Longworth 1971, 188 & fig.82). If this interpretation is correct then it provides rare evidence of textile production in the late Neolithic. One of the Grooved Ware sherds is encrusted with charred residue and would have the potential for residue analysis and radiocarbon dating.
- 1.1.22 The small group of Beaker pottery can be described as being 'domestic' in character, including both comb impressed and rusticated vessels. There is little published material of this type from north Kent and therefore the find is important and will add to the emerging overall picture for the development of earlier prehistoric ceramics.
- 1.1.23 The Iron Age pottery assemblage will contribute to the understanding of the date and character of the contemporary settlement and associated activity.
- 1.1.24 The potential described above may be addressed by a programme of detailed pottery recording, followed by analysis of forms, fabrics (including sources of materials), vessel function, production methods, vessel use (including patterns of deposition) and spatial distribution. Chronological issues may be addressed by selecting

radiocarbon samples in close association with key pottery deposits, where possible using material adhering to the sherds, to establish an independent radiometric chronology for the site. Possible inter-regional research objectives (see Section 4.5.9 and 4.5.14 above) may be met by a review of published sources for comparative assemblages, including continental sources. Viewing of key assemblages may be required for unpublished collections and selected items. It is recommended that the prehistoric pottery is studied alongside other CTRL sites with prehistoric assemblages, in particular White Horse Stone, Tutt Hill and Beechbrook Wood.

- 1.1.25 Specific issues that may be addressed include identification of the sources of the ceramic objects found on the sites: Were all the materials obtained locally? Is there any evidence that non-local materials were being traded? What is the source of shell temper found in the late Neolithic Grooved Ware and some of the Iron Age pottery? Are glauconitic clays found locally or does their identification suggest procurement of raw materials or trade over longer distances? Can any finished vessels be identified as non-local products? Is there any difference in the sources of supply over time? These objectives can be addressed by detailed comparative study of forms and fabrics from White Horse Stone and comparable assemblages, including thin section analysis of sherds from selected fabric groups.

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1.2 Late Iron Age Pottery

by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

- 1.2.1 The 225 sherds (1252 g) of late Iron Age pottery from Eyhorne Street come from eleven contexts (see Table 1.1.1) and for the most part comprise badly broken up sherds in handmade sand and calcined-flint tempered fabrics, some of which incorporate glauconitic sand as well as quartz and hint at local manufacture.
- 1.2.2 The recovery and study of the pottery was undertaken in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims (see Section 2.2), in particular aim 1.

Methodology

- 1.2.3 A record was made of all the sherds. Where applicable reference was made to the CAT fabric series.

Quantification

- 1.2.4 A breakdown of the assemblage by context is included in Table 1.1.1 (see above). One or two sherds in glauconitic sand and calcined flint tempered fabric B9.3 occurred in late Iron Age contexts at Thurnham (ARC THM98) and it is probable that these are of similar date and source. This notion is reinforced by the fact that the primary fill of pit 226 produced the greater parts of a late Iron Age pedestal jar and conical cup in grog-tempered ware alongside fresh sherds in the sand and flint-tempered fabric. The pot forms suggest that activity took place on the site during the period 150 BC-AD 1 during the earlier part of the late Iron Age.

Conservation

- 1.2.5 The pottery is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation. At this stage, all the material should be retained.

Potential for further work

- 1.2.6 The small amounts of late Iron Age pottery are of limited value for anything other than dating purposes and for suggesting that vessels in the glauconitic sand and calcined flint tempered fabric B9.3 may have been produced in the Hollingbourne area. The group of vessels from pit 226 is an important chronological indicator of activity in the earlier part of the late Iron Age and would therefore justify detailed study and publication.